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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-6. (canceled)

7. (new) A steel article having a hardened surface coating, comprising:

- a. a body comprising a steel composition; and
- b. an adherent coating disposed on at least one surface of said body, said coating comprising 10 to 60 weight percent titanium carbide, balance a steel composition, said coating being characterized by a minimum hardness of no less than 393.97 HV.

8. (new) A steel article in accordance with claim 7 wherein said body is characterized by a maximum hardness of no more than 298.99 HV.

9. (new) A steel article in accordance with claim 7 wherein said coating is further characterized by a martensite microstructure.

10. (new) A steel article in accordance with claim 7 wherein said coating is further characterized by the inclusion of fine titanium carbonitride particles.